

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 4, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Fisher (U.S. Patent No. 2,322,431), claims 1 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Bottrill (U.S. Patent No. 5,081,546), claims 1 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by McMahan (U.S. Patent No. 5,516,073), claims 1 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Sillmann (DE 3207925), and rejected claims 1 and 7-10 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 10 and 8 respectively of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,554,436 and 6,352,231 (both to Lang, et al.). The Examiner also objected to the specification and drawings for minor informalities.

In this Amendment, applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claims 7-10 and added new claims 18-25. Previously, claims 2-6 and 11-17 had been withdrawn. Therefore, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1 and 18-25 will be pending under examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended herein, is patentable over each of the cited references. As amended, claim 1 recites a rearview mirror assembly for vehicle including, for example, a support structure for mounting the mirror assembly to the vehicle, the support structure including a first part and a second part, a support arm on which at least one mirror is mounted, the second part of the support structure being disposed on the support arm, and a locking mechanism disposed on the support structure for selectively locking together the first and second parts of the support structure to thereby secure the support arm and mirror to the vehicle. The locking mechanism includes a key activated locking mechanism including a key cylinder mounted on the first part of the support structure and a latch member operatively

connected to a rotatable via the key cylinder for selectively lockingly engaging the second part of the support structure. Such subject matter is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

With further reference to the Examiner's objections, applicants wish to make a few points regarding the recited subject matter and the support found in the specification and drawings for that subject matter. First, as set forth at page 5, lines 22-25 of the originally filed specification, Figs. 1 and 2 show a support structure 2 that can be connected to a support arm 4. As set forth at page 7, lines 14-23, support structure 2 includes at least the following parts: insertable component 26 and rectangular-shaped clamp receptacle 38. The claimed first part of the support structure may include element 38, and the second part of the support structure may include element 26. Applicants have accordingly made minor changes to the specification and drawings to more clearly point out these relationships, to respond to items identified by the Examiner, and to generally bring the specification, claims, and drawings into conformance with each other. Applicants respectfully submit that all such changes are supported by the originally-filed materials, and that all such changes add new matter.

The applicants wish to make one additional point regarding specification disclosure that is relevant to the subject matter of claim 1. As set forth in the originally-filed specification at page 8, lines 14-18, as well as Fig. 5a, the recited key activated locking mechanism including a key cylinder and latch member comprise a typical device whereby a key (for example of the type kept on a common key ring with other keys) is inserted into a key cylinder and rotated to either lock or unlock the latch, whereby the key may also be removed from the key cylinder. Such ordinary meanings for these terms apply, as interpreted in view of the specification.

Accordingly, references such as Fisher do not disclose or suggest in any way such an

arrangement. Applicants respectfully submit that, with the amendments made above, and with the claim elements interpreted as set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over any of the cited references. For example, none of the cited references discloses or suggests the specific locking mechanism including key cylinder and latch member as specifically recited. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the Fisher, Bottrill, McMahan, and Sillmann references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Regarding the obviousness-type double patenting rejections, claim 1 has been amended, as pointed out above. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the two patents cited by the Examiner do not form the basis for a proper double-patenting rejection. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the double-patenting rejections be withdrawn. In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, and dependent claims 18-25 added in the present Amendment should also be patentable.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the reconsideration of the examination of the present application, and the timely allowance of pending claims 1 and 18-25.

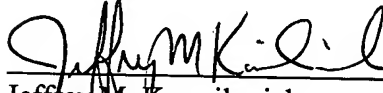
If the Examiner has any questions upon consideration of this Amendment and the Request for Continued Examination, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

December 4, 2003

Date

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Karmilovich", is written over a horizontal line.

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